

# Bliss/West/Backus Collection

3 boxes (1.2 linear ft.)

Collection number: AM-349

## Abstract:

The Bliss, West, and Backus' were three early Pittsfield families, some of whom settled here even prior to the city's 1761 incorporation. The Backus family had significant involvement with the Pittsfield Fire Department, and owned a prominent storefront in the downtown area. During the 19<sup>th</sup>-century, intermarriage created associations between these three families. Members of the Bliss, West, and Backus families are referenced throughout the four-volume *History of Pittsfield*, covering the years 1734-1955. The four volumes, and a comprehensive index, are available in the Margaret H. Hall Library at the Berkshire Historical Society.

Finding aid by Louisa Lebwohl, July 2012.

Margaret H. Hall Library and Archives  
Berkshire County Historical Society  
Pittsfield, MA

## Terms of Access and Use:

The papers are open to research according to the regulations of the Margaret H. Hall Library and Archives, without any additional restrictions.

## Scope and Contents of the Collection:



- Photographs
- Photo albums
- Ambrotypes
- Daguerrotypes
- Tintypes
- Silhouettes

### Search Terms:

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection.

- Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass.
- Empire Theatre, North Adams, Mass.
- Pittsfield, Mass.
- Pittsfield High School basketball
- Backus, Frank
- Backus, Grace West (Grace West)
- Backus, Laura West (Laura Backus Nicholls)
- Backus, Will
- Bliss, Harriet (Harriet Bliss Ford)
- Bliss, Mary (Mary Bliss West)
- Bliss, Simon
- Bliss, Mrs. Simon
- Ford, George
- Ford, Harriet Bliss (Harriet Bliss)
- Nicholls, John Muir
- Nicholls, Laura Backus (Laura West Backus)
- Smith, Arthur
- West, Charles C.
- West, Charlotte
- West, Grace (Grace West Backus)

- West, Mary Bliss (Mary Bliss)